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In view of the recent introduction of the Starling into this country, the following respecting this bird, which has of late greatly extended its range in the Moray Basin, may be of interest to American readers: "General favorite though he be, it is, in our opinion, a question whether his good qualities may not be found wanting in the balance of good and evil, a result following upon the force of his numbers and degree of assertiveness" (Vol. II, p. 4).

"A Fauna of the Moray Basin" is a model work of its kind, and a most valuable contribution to Scottish natural history.—J. A. A.

The 'Birds' of the Royal Natural History.— Since our previous notice of this work,[1] Parts 21–24 (March 1–April 15) have appeared, completing the portion relating to birds, which occupies pp. 289–576 of Vol. III and the whole of Vol. IV (pp. 1–576). Of Vol. IV there is yet to appear the title page, contents and index, which will be issued with Part 25, otherwise devoted to reptiles.

Chapter XII, 'The Diurnal Birds of Prey, or Accipitrines,— Order Accipitres,' occupies pp. 174–275 of Vol. IV, the one hundred pages devoted to this group sufficing to give a quite full and satisfactory account of these birds. Chapter XIII (pp. 276–288), treats of 'The Cormorant Group,— Order Steganopodes.' Chapter XIV (pp. 289–319) gives an account of the 'Herons, Storks, and Ibises,— Order Herodiones'; Chapter XV (pp. 320–362) is devoted to the 'Flamingoes, Ducks, and Screamers,— Orders Odontoglossi, Anseres, and Palamedeæ'; Chapter XVI (pp. 363–392), to 'The Pigeons and Sand-Grouse,— Order Columbæ'; Chapter XVII (pp. 393–450), to 'The Game-Birds and Rails,— Orders Gallinæ and Fulicariæ'; Chapter XVIII (pp. 451–469), to the 'Bustards, Thicknees and Cranes,— Order Alectorides'; Chapter XIX (pp. 470–518), to 'The Plovers, Sandpipers Jacanas, and Gulls,— Orders Limicolæ and Gaviæ'; Chapter XX (pp. 519–550), to 'The Tube-nosed Birds, Diving Birds, and Penguins,— Orders Tubinares, Pygopodes, and Impennes'; Chapter XXI (pp. 551–576), to 'The Tinamus, Flightless Birds, etc.— Groups Crypturi, Stereornithes, Ratitæ, Odontornithes, Saururæ,' concluding the work. Chapter XII is by Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe and Chapters XVI and XVII are by W. R. Ogilvie Grant; the authorship of the other chapters here under notice is not as yet disclosed, but is apparently by the editor, Dr. Lydekker.

The commendation bestowed upon the earlier bird parts of this great work is equally well-merited by these concluding numbers, which give in small compass a vast amount of information on the groups treated. The illustrations are excellent and abundant, although only in small part new, yet none the less appropriate and instructive. The relationships and distinctive characteristics of the higher group are briefly considered,

[1] See Auk, XIII, 1896, pp. 156–160.

and the various extinct types are also mentioned. As a popular treatise on the Class Aves, the work as a whole is entitled to generous patronage. —J. A. A.

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Howe, Reginald Heber, Jr., "Every Bird"—A Guide to the identification of the Birds of Woodland, Beach and Ocean. Sm. 8vo, pp. viii, 192. Boston: Bradley Whidden, 1896.

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Ridgway, Robert. (1) Description of a New Species of Ground Warbler from Eastern Mexico, (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. XVIII, No. 1045, pp, 119, 120.) (2) Preliminary Descriptions of some New Birds from the Galopagos Archipelago. (*Ibid.*, No. 1067.) (3) Description of a New Subspecies of the Genus *Peucedramus* Coues. *Ibid*, No. 1074.)

Rothschild, Walter, and Ernst Hartert. Contributions to the Ornithology of the Papuan Islands. (Nov. Zool., III, pp. 8–20, pl. i, March, 1896.)